



# Disaster Healthcare Volunteers DHV Journal



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## Response Personnel Unit Message

Great news! The California Medical Assistance Team (CALMAT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) 2023 NorCal Training and USCG exercise held at Station 4 in Sacramento and the US Coast Guard facility in Petaluma was a success. We had a fantastic turnout, and the feedback was excellent. Thank you for your valuable contributions!

Your dedication makes a real difference in our community's preparedness and response efforts. We appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to your participation in the next exercise.

Thank you for your commitment and enthusiasm. Please remember to invite friends and colleagues to join your DHV county unit or MRC by registering in the DHV system at [DHV of California](https://www.dhvofcalifornia.com).





### **2023 MRC Coordinators Statewide Training Workshop**

EMSA's Disaster Medical Services Division sponsored a training workshop for California's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinators on Wednesday, May 24 and Thursday, May 25. There were 58 In-Person attendees. This included 43 MRC Unit Coordinators/designees representing 24 MRC Units.

This workshop featured presentations on topics ranging from Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program, TRAIN Resources, How to incorporate HOSA in your MRC, New DHV System Demo, Deploying MRC in hospitals, Out of Operational Area Deployments, Deployment Readiness Resources from NACCHO, University based MRCs, and many more!

The workshop provided an opportunity for California's MRCs to strategize on the incorporation of MRCs into local emergency plans and highlighted daily best practices for sustainability, standardized training, and real situation experiences when responding to public health emergencies or disasters.

### **2023 NorCal Training and USCG Exercise**

Northern MRC Units were given an opportunity to participate in the 2023 NorCal Training and USCG Exercise. This training/exercise was limited to 20 MRC attendees. This training took place April 24th in Sacramento, CA and the exercise took place on April 25th in Petaluma at the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Base. The training for MRC included START Triage, EMT/Paremedic skills, Cache and Pharmacy Overview. The exercise was a Marine Mass Casualty Incident scenario. We look forward to inviting Southern MRC Units to the SoCal Training and Full-Scale Exercise that will take place during the week of October 23<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



## MRC/DHV Unit Articles

### Sacramento MRC

Thanks to NACCHO RISE award funding, the Sacramento MRC (SMRC), a program of the Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services, hired an Assistant MRC Coordinator, purchased an AED, provided BLS training for our membership and partners, attended the NACCHO Preparedness Summit and National Healthcare Coalition conferences, and created this volunteer recruitment video. [Sacramento MRC Volunteer Recruitment Video](#)

The SMRC provided Stop the Bleed training for members and partner agencies, supported the migrant response effort, and has added the use of Narcan to our first aid capabilities.

Great activities are scheduled including the CA State Fair on July 27<sup>th</sup> where our team will staff a booth for Military, Veteran's, and First Responders Day to distribute emergency preparedness materials and recruit MRC volunteers. First responders, including MRC members and licensed medical professionals and lifeguards, get free admission into the fair on that day.

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, the SMRC will staff first aid and cooling tents and distribute emergency preparedness information for Chalk It Up, a community festival at Fremont Park with chalk art, music, food, and crafts. Last year the event was held during a heatwave that reached 116 degrees, so we are hoping for cooler weather this year!



## MRC/DHV Unit Articles

### Sacramento MRC Cont.



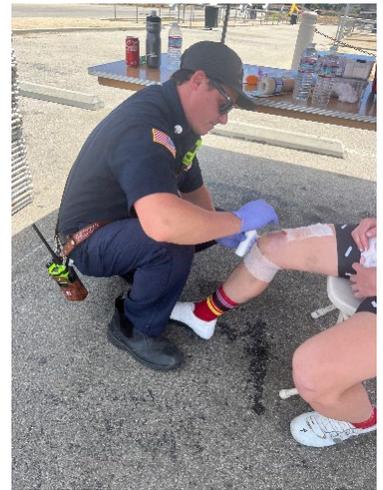
## MRC/DHV Unit Articles

### Ventura County

That's a wrap on the Bike MS: Los Angeles/Ventura Coastal Challenge 2023! The Ventura County Emergency Medical Services Agency coordinated seven first aid stations with the Ventura County Medical Reserve Corps (VCMRC) volunteers, Federal Fire Ventura County, and AMR across the county over two days from Malibu to Ojai!

These first aid stations were staffed with EMTs, Paramedics, RNs and MDs. One of the biggest successes the VCMRC volunteers have gained exponentially in recent years is working within multi-agency coordination to create excellent outreach experiences for the community.

This Bike MS event had 400+ riders with various courses of 30-50-60-100 miles and raised \$436,229 for the MS Society. Did you know? Bike MS is the largest fundraising cycling series in the world. Each year, nearly 50,000 cyclists and more than 5,000 teams ride together to change the world for people with multiple sclerosis (MS)!



# MRC/DHV Unit Articles

## Ventura County Cont.



## Online Disaster Training Opportunities

California is fortunate that over **104,000** volunteers are registered on the DHV System. Volunteers can be notified and given opportunities to serve in critical healthcare and non-healthcare positions when a disaster strikes in our State. As you are one of those who have made the commitment to register as a potential volunteer, you may want to take the next step and complete entry-level disaster training. There are on-line FEMA training opportunities you can complete on your own schedule.



To learn more about training classes and many other training opportunities, visit FEMA's Emergency Management Institute's website: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Home Page](#)

### [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-325: Earthquake Basics: Science, Risk, and Mitigation \(1 hour\)](#)

#### Course Objectives:

- Raise awareness of earthquake risk and mitigation strategies for life saving planning.

### [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-200.C: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 \(4 hours\)](#)

#### Course Objectives:

- Describe how the NIMS Management Characteristics relate to Incident Command and Unified Command.
- Describe the delegation of authority process, implementing authorities, management by objectives, and preparedness plans and objectives.
- Identify ICS organizational components, the Command Staff, the General Staff, and ICS tools.
- Describe different types of briefings and meetings.
- Explain flexibility within the standard ICS organizational structure.
- Explain transfer of command briefings and procedures.
- Use ICS to manage an incident or event.

## HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

WHAT TO LOOK FOR	WHAT TO DO
<b>HEAT STROKE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High body temperature (103°F or higher)</li><li>• Hot, red, dry, or damp skin</li><li>• Fast, strong pulse</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Dizziness</li><li>• Nausea</li><li>• Confusion</li><li>• Losing consciousness (passing out)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call 911 right away-heat stroke is a medical emergency</li><li>• Move the person to a cooler place</li><li>• Help lower the person's temperature with cool cloths or a cool bath</li><li>• Do not give the person anything to drink</li></ul>
<b>HEAT EXHAUSTION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heavy sweating</li><li>• Cold, pale, and clammy skin</li><li>• Fast, weak pulse</li><li>• Nausea or vomiting</li><li>• Muscle cramps</li><li>• Tiredness or weakness</li><li>• Dizziness</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Fainting (passing out)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Move to a cool place</li><li>• Loosen your clothes</li><li>• Put cool, wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath</li><li>• Sip water</li></ul> <p><b>Get medical help right away if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You are throwing up</li><li>• Your symptoms get worse</li><li>• Your symptoms last longer than 1 hour</li></ul>
<b>HEAT CRAMPS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heavy sweating during intense exercise</li><li>• Muscle pain or spasms</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stop physical activity and move to a cool place</li><li>• Drink water or a sports drink</li><li>• Wait for cramps to go away before you do any more physical activity</li></ul> <p><b>Get medical help right away if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cramps last longer than 1 hour</li><li>• You're on a low-sodium diet</li><li>• You have heart problems</li></ul>
<b>SUNBURN</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Painful, red, and warm skin</li><li>• Blisters on the skin</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay out of the sun until your sunburn heals</li><li>• Put cool cloths on sunburned areas or take a cool bath</li><li>• Put moisturizing lotion on sunburned areas</li><li>• Do not break blisters</li></ul>
<b>HEAT RASH</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Red clusters of small blisters that look like pimples on the skin (usually on the neck, chest, groin, or in elbow creases)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay in a cool, dry place</li><li>• Keep the rash dry</li><li>• Use powder (like baby powder) to soothe the rash</li></ul>



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html>

# Wildfire Smoke & Animals

## Health advisories for air quality also apply to animals.

*Birds are particularly susceptible to particulates in the air.*

If you've been experiencing a headache, scratchy throat, or breathing issues due to wildfire smoke, your body is reacting to toxins in the smoke. This smoke also affects pets, birds, horses, livestock and wildlife in similar ways.

### Signs of Smoke or Dust Irritation in Animals

- ▶ Unusual coughing, sneezing or gagging
- ▶ Difficulty breathing, including open mouth breathing
- ▶ Eye irritation and excessive watering
- ▶ Inflammation of throat or mouth
- ▶ Nasal discharge
- ▶ Asthma-like symptoms
- ▶ Increased breathing rate
- ▶ Weakness and lethargy

*If you are in an area where wildfires are active, please be sure to include your pets, horses, livestock and other animals in your evacuation planning.*

### Tips to Keep Animals Safe from Wildfire Smoke

- ▶ Keep pets and pet birds indoors with the windows shut.
- ▶ Avoid intense outdoor exercise during periods of poor air quality. Exercise pets when dust and smoke has settled.
- ▶ Limit time outdoors for pets on days designated with a red air quality alert to quick potty breaks.
- ▶ Pet birds need to remain indoors as much as possible during the highest level advisories.
- ▶ Animals that have cardiovascular or respiratory disease are at increased risk during periods of poor air quality and should be watched closely.
- ▶ Include your animals in potential evacuation planning. Take your pets with you if you leave.

*If your pet is experiencing breathing difficulties or eye irritation, please consult with your veterinarian.*



**OREGON VETERINARY**  
medical association

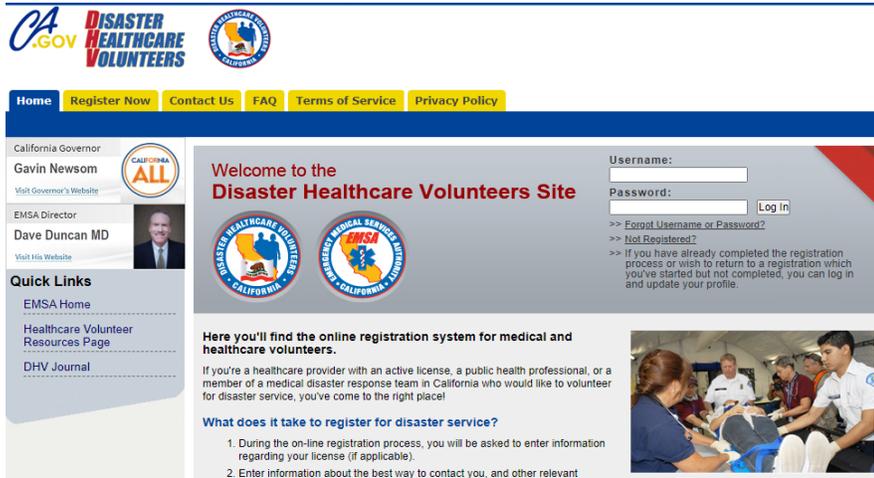
Helping people give their animals  
a high quality of life.

©2017 Oregon Veterinary Medical Association

Source: <https://www.oregonvma.org/sites/default/files/Wildfire-Smoke-Animals.pdf>

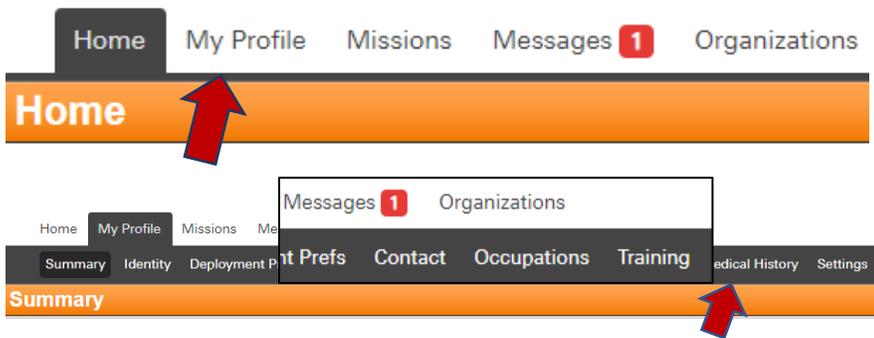
# DHV User Tips

## To Upload Completed Training Courses



### Step 1:

**Log into the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers Website**  
<https://healthcarevolunteers.ca.gov/>

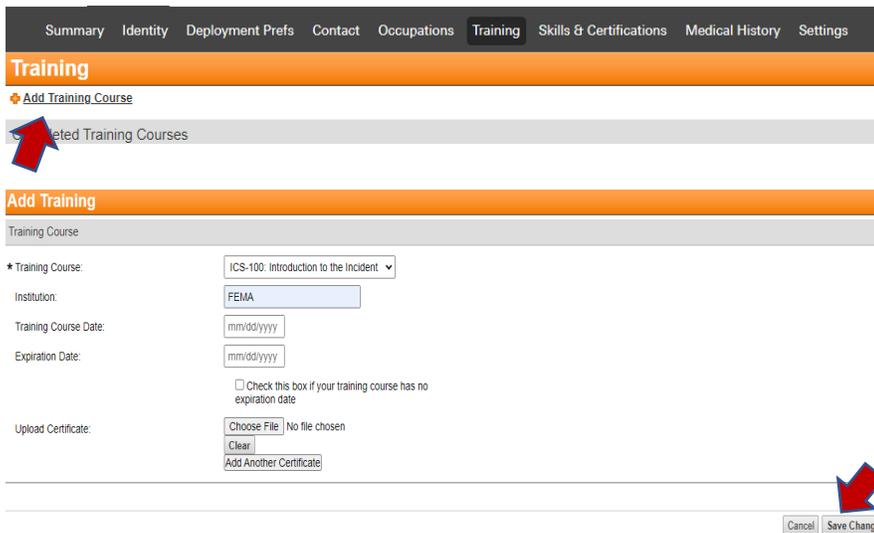


### Step 2:

**Select the 'My Profile' tab**

### Step 3:

**Select the 'Training' tab**



### Step 4:

**Select the 'Add Training Courses' tab**

### Step 5:

- Choose the Training Course from the Drop-Down Menu**
- Enter the Institution Name, Training Course Date and Expiration if applicable.**
- Upload Certificate as an attachment.**
- Select 'Save Changes' in the bottom right.**



## DHV is California's ESAR-VHP Program

The Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) is a federal program created to support states and territories in establishing standardized volunteer registration programs for disasters, public health, and medical emergencies.

Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV), California's ESAR-VHP program, administered at the state level, verifies health professionals' identification and credentials so that they can respond more quickly when disaster strikes. By registering through ESAR-VHP, volunteers' identities, licenses, credentials, and accreditations are verified in advance, saving valuable time in emergency situations.

### Why Do We Need ESAR-VHP?

In the wake of disasters and public health and medical emergencies, many of our nation's health professionals are eager and willing to volunteer their services. In these times of crisis, hospitals, clinics, and temporary shelters depend on health professional volunteers' services. However, on such short notice, taking advantage of volunteers' time and capabilities presents a major challenge to hospitals, public health, and emergency response officials. For example, immediately after the attacks on September 11, 2001, tens of thousands of people traveled to ground zero in New York City to volunteer and provide medical assistance. In most cases, authorities were unable to distinguish those who were qualified from those who were not - no matter how well-intentioned.

There are significant problems associated with registering and verifying the credentials of health professional volunteers immediately following major disasters or emergencies. Specifically, hospitals and other facilities may be unable to verify basic licensing or credentialing information, including training, skills, competencies, and employment. Further, the loss of telecommunications may prevent contact with sources that provide credential or privilege information. The goal of the ESAR-VHP program is to eliminate a number of the problems that arise when mobilizing health professional volunteers in an emergency response.

### Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV)

In accordance with federal mandate, California has developed the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers (DHV) Program to facilitate and manage the registration, credentialing, and deployment of volunteer healthcare professionals (VHPs) in California. DHV uses a software system for the management of volunteers, including the registration, notification, communication, and credentialing needs associated with volunteer management. The DHV Program is the single source system operated and administered by local, regional, State, public health, and emergency medical services agencies.

DHV is administered by all system stakeholders and managed by the California EMS Authority in partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). DHV volunteers include healthcare professionals (medical, public health, mental health, EMS, and other personnel) who are willing to be called upon in the event of an emergency or disaster. DHV volunteers are pre-registered and pre-credentialed. Deployment of volunteers will follow Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) procedures.

To register on the DHV system or get more information, visit our website, [DHV of California](#).



DHV

## Have You Updated Your DHV Registration Information Lately?

We depend upon each of you to update your DHV profile with your correct information. It is important that you take a moment to update your DHV System information when your information changes. Have you moved? Do you have a new occupation or a new employer? Have your email or phone numbers changed?

Please take a moment to update your file. Just log into [DHV of California](#) and click on the "Profile" tab. From there, you can navigate through your information. Click on "Edit Information" to make your changes, and then be sure to click on "Save Changes" when you have completed your edits.

### The DHV Journal is published and distributed via email.

News and information for participants in the Disaster Healthcare Volunteers Program administered by EMSA and operated by System Administrators in local communities and Medical Reserve Corps Coordinators throughout California. This Journal is published and distributed periodically to the partners of the DHV Program.



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